

REPORT

OF THE

LIEUT.-GEN. A. PHELPS.

23, AUGUSTUS ROAD.

MEDICAL OFFICER OF HEALTH

TO THE

GLOUCESTER

Urban Sanitary Authority,

FOR 1876.

Presented to the Sanitary Committee of that body at the
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REPORT.

In the Report which I presented to the Urban Sanitary Authority of the City of Gloucester, for the year 1875, it was my duty to comment on the absence of sewers and the want of a good supply of water in the recently added portion of the town. The preliminaries were then being arranged for carrying out these important works; and in this, my report for the past year 1876, I am happy to be able to state that sewerage works of a very complete character have been laid down throughout the whole of the district, consisting of 12 miles of culverts and pipes, and that water mains to the extent of 14 miles have also been placed in the various streets of the corresponding portions of the district. It may, therefore, be expected that as soon as connections are made to these two systems, the principal Sanitary wants of the district will be supplied, and that this portion of the town will be in as good a condition as the older parts of the city. But I need hardly say, that to make this complete, it will be necessary to obtain an additional supply of water to meet the increased demands which the extended area will create, and I trust the Sanitary Authority is making arrangements for this purpose, so that a constant supply may be secured.

The new portion of the Town has been, and is, passing through a period of great discomfort. The roads have been broken up, and considerable inconvenience has been unavoidably caused by the works which have been carried out. But I must bear my testimony to the rapidity with which these works have been effected, and as far as a non-professional opinion may be given, of the completeness with which they have been performed. I trust in a short

time, when the necessary arrangements for the junction of the houses have been completed, that the citizens of the whole district will avail themselves of the opportunities of changing the imperfect drainage and impure water supply, on which I commented in my last report, for the perfect drainage and good water which they will be able to command.

Although during the last year an Epidemic of Scarlet Fever prevailed throughout the city and caused the death of 141 persons, I am happy to report that the mortality for the year was considerably less than in 1875, the total number of deaths having been in that year 783, and 734 registered in 1876. I commented in my last report on the difficulties which are met with in combating the spread of Epidemics from the absence of information of the occurrence of such diseases amongst private patients. I am aware that it is a delicate point to urge that information should in all such cases be conveyed to the Medical Officer of Health. I would suggest that in order to strengthen the hands of those who are endeavouring to amend the Health Acts, the Sanitary Authority should address a memorial to the House of Commons in support of some compulsory measure to provide such information. Several memorials for this purpose have been already presented by Local Sanitary Authorities to Parliament, and I trust that the Gloucester Urban Authority will adopt a similar course.

The Hospital for Infectious Diseases has only been used for 3 cases during the past year. The result of the treatment of one of the patients who I received into it is such a striking example of its utility in the prevention of the spread of Infectious disease that I must call attention to it. A person arrived from Cardiff with an eruption on his face, for which on reaching Gloucester he consulted a medical man, who, seeing that the patient was attacked with Small Pox, at once brought him to me, and I took him to the Hospital without his having

entered a house in Gloucester, except that of the medical man who he had first called on. He was treated in the Hospital by me, and when thoroughly cured he left the town. This was several months after Small Pox had disappeared from Gloucester, and I heard of no case of the disease spreading from this individual. It is but rarely possible so completely to check the spread of the disease as was done in this case, and it is only reasonable to suppose that had he been allowed to go into lodgings in the town, the disease of which we had in the previous year such a painful experience would have been re-established amongst us.

The extended use of the Hospital has been secured by a recent recommendation of the Sanitary Authority, under which at the present time I am authorized to receive patients, if necessary, at an almost nominal sum. But however small the payment I fear that great difficulties will always exist in inducing the parents of children to allow them to be removed for treatment to the hospital when attacked with Scarlet Fever. It must be remembered that, unlike Small Pox, which generally attacks adults, Scarlet Fever is most prevalent amongst children, as will be seen by referring to the table of deaths where it will be found that the number of cases in which it proved fatal in children under five years of age was 93; and a large proportion of those recorded as having died above that age were less than twelve years old. As evidence that the same difficulty is felt elsewhere I would call your attention to the following extract written by my colleague and friend Dr. Wright, the Medical Officer of Health for Cheltenham, in his report on the sanitary condition of that town for 1876, "How far we may be able in some future wave of this periodical visitor to persuade parents to send their children to the Scarlatina Wards of the Delancey Hospital remains to be seen. Should this be accomplished there is no doubt that this most troublesome and fatal

zymotic will be much circumscribed and its rate of mortality greatly reduced by the isolation of the first cases and their proper treatment in the Gabell block of the new Hospital. Nevertheless I know the difficulty will be very great in getting the consent of a mother to part with her stricken child, and who, in all probability, will prefer keeping it at home with the certainty of infecting the members of the family, endangering their lives and spreading the disease in the neighbourhood, rather than allow it to go where its chances of recovery would be much greater than if treated at home. Still the effort must be made, as isolation is the only means we have in our power to prevent the spreading of Scarlet Fever when it once breaks out in any place."

I reported the prevalence of Scarlatina to the Local Government Board and received instructions for the prevention of the spread of the disease, which were carefully carried out by the Inspector Mr. Allen, and myself. As I found that several children had contracted the complaint by attending at St. James's Schools, I considered it my duty to request the Rev. William Bulmer to close them for a fortnight, which he did, during which time the buildings were thoroughly disinfected and whitewashed under the superintendence of the Inspector. Previous to the reopening, instructions were sent to the parents of the scholars inculcating the strictest caution as to sending children who were not quite well to school, and in stopping the attendance of other members of a family in which the epidemic had appeared.

Slaughter-houses.—In the month of May a Committee of the Sanitary Authority visited all the Slaughter-houses with the Inspector and myself. We considered it necessary to point out to the occupiers certain deficiencies which were immediately rectified, and some of the old premises it was determined to close altogether. With Mr. Allen I have since twice visited all which are licensed, and I can report that they are in a satisfactory condition.

Bake-houses.—I am able to make a similar report as to the state of the bake-houses.

Smoke Nuisance.—Although I directed the attention of the Authority in my last report to the prevalence of nuisances arising from many of the furnaces at the works in the city not efficiently consuming their smoke, I regret to say that no steps have been taken to compel the owners of such factories to comply with the provisions of the Town Improvement Acts.

Returns of Cases of Illness and Death within the District.—The tables which will be found appended to this Report contain all the cases of death which have been registered in the district. The Registrars send me every month all the cases which are registered by them, and whenever any death arising from epidemic disease is entered in their books, a copy of it is sent to me at once. I also receive from the clerk to the Union, weekly returns of all fresh cases of illness recorded in the books of Medical Officers of the Union, so that I am constantly enabled to take early measures for inspection and disinfection in such cases as it appears to be necessary. The other returns of sickness are collated by me from the books of the Infirmary and the Children's Hospital.

The constant inspection of the District has been carried out by myself and the Inspector during the past year from day to day, and in many parts of the city from house to house. We have endeavoured to discharge this duty, and I think we have succeeded in doing so, in such a manner as not to create any unpleasant feeling at what is sometimes considered an unnecessary interference. I must again speak with great satisfaction of Mr. Allen's constant attention to his duties. The intimate acquaintance which he has with the drainage and other works connected with the district has been of the greatest assistance in the discharge of his important functions.

TABLE OF BIRTHS

REGISTERED IN THE URBAN DISTRICT.

				1875.	1876.
Males,	Legitimate	...	...	593	758
"	Illegitimate	...	...	22	27
				— 615	— 785
Females,	Legitimate	...	...	623	677
"	Illegitimate	...	...	24	35
				— 647	— 712
				— 1262	— 1497

TABLE OF SICKNESS

Amongst the Paupers belonging to the Urban District, treated by the Medical Officers of the Union, and of other persons belonging to the District treated as In and Out-Patients at the Gloucester Infirmary and the Children's Hospital, and at the Hospital for Infectious Diseases.

	PAUPERS*		IN-PATIENTS		OUT-PATIENTS	
	Under 5 years of age	Over 5 years of age	Under 5 years of age	Over 5 years of age	Under 5 years of age	Over 5 years of age
All Cases of Sickness and Injuries	163	653	38	545	207	1351
Measles.....	1	1	...	...	...	...
Small Pox .....	...	...	...	1	...	...
Scarlatina & Scarlet Fever	52	58	...	3	12	4
Whooping Cough	1	4	...	...	18	7
Cont. { Enteric	1	3	1	8	...	...
Fever { Other or doubtful	1	14	...	...	2	2
Diarrhoea and Dysentery	21	22	4	2	45	14
Erysipelas .....	...	3	...	..	...	1
Ague .....	...	...	...	1	...	...
Phthisis .....	...	16	1	13	2	17
Bronchitis, Pneumonia and Pleurisy	24	76	7	17	19	34
Heart Disease.....	...	17	...	4	...	9
Injuries	4	29	4	124	52	479
Other Diseases	58	410	21	373	57	784

TABLE OF DEATHS

WITHIN THE URBAN SANITARY DISTRICT OF GLOUCESTER IN 1876.

The arrangement is copied from that which has been adopted by Dr. WRIGHT in
his Report for the Sanitary District of Cheltenham.

CAUSES OF DEATH.	AGES AT DEATH.							SEXES.		
	Under 1	1 and under 5	5 and under 20	20 and under 40	40 and under 60	60 and under 80	80 and above	Males	Femls.	Total.
Class I.—Zymotic Diseases										
Order 1.—MIASMATIC DISEASES	35	102	46	11	4	3	...	109	92	201
Scarlet Fever (Scarlatina) ...	9	84	44	4	...	...	...	82	59	141
Croup! ... ..	...	2	...	...	...	...	...	...	2	2
Whooping Cough	4	5	...	...	...	...	...	3	6	9
Continued { Enteric Fever	...	2	2	6	1	...	...	6	5	11
{ Other or doubtful	...	3	...	...	...	...	...	2	1	3
Erysipelas ... ..	...	...	...	...	1	...	...	1	...	1
Carbuncle ... ..	...	...	...	...	...	1	...	1	...	1
Influenza	1	1	...	...	1	...	...	1	2	3
Diarrhoea	21	5	...	...	1	2	...	13	16	29
Rheumatism ... ..	...	...	...	1	...	...	...	...	1	1
Order 2.—ENTHETIC	6	1	...	1	1	1	...	6	4	10
Syphilis	6	1	...	1	1	...	...	5	4	9
Stricture of the Urethra ... ..	...	...	...	...	...	1	...	1	...	1
Order 3.—DIETETIC	2	...	1	1	1	...	...	3	2	5
Want of Breast Milk	1	...	...	...	...	...	...	1	...	1
Purpura	1	...	1	...	...	...	...	...	2	2
Alcoholism { Delirium Tremens	...	...	...	...	1	...	...	1	...	1
{ Intemperance	...	...	...	1	...	...	...	1	...	1
Class II.—Constitutional Diseases										
Order 1.—DIATHETIC		1	2	2	10	7	...	8	14	22
Gout ... ..	...	...	...	...	...	3	...	3	...	3
Dropsy ... ..	...	1	2	1	...	2	...	3	3	6
Cancer ... ..	...	...	...	1	10	2	...	2	11	13
Order 2.—TUBERCULAR	18	9	9	34	28	2	...	49	51	100
Scrofula	4	3	5	3	6	...	...	10	11	21
Tabes Mesenterica	11	4	...	...	...	...	...	8	7	15
Phthisis ... ..	...	1	4	30	22	2	...	27	32	59
Hydrocephalus	3	1	...	1	...	...	...	4	1	5
	61	113	58	49	44	13		175	163	338

TABLE OF DEATHS

WITHIN THE URBAN SANITARY DISTRICT OF GLOUCESTER IN 1876,

CONTINUED.

CAUSES OF DEATH.	AGES AT DEATH.							SEXES.		
	Under 1	1 and under 5	5 and under 20	20 and under 40	40 and under 60	60 and under 80	80 and above	Males	Femls.	Total.
Class III.—Local Diseases	61	113	58	49	44	13		175	163	338
Order 1.—NERVOUS SYSTEM	16	4	6	6	10	21	7	39	31	70
Apoplexy ... ..	...	...	1	...	6	7	4	11	7	18
Paralysis ... ..	...	...	1	...	3	4	2	4	6	10
Epilepsy ... ..	...	...	...	3	...	...	...	2	1	3
Convulsions	15	2	3	...	...	...	...	12	8	20
Brain Disease	1	1	...	2	1	9	1	8	7	15
Sunstroke ... ..	...	...	1	1	...	1	...	2	1	3
Disease of Spinal Cord ... ..	...	1	...	...	...	...	...	...	1	1
Order 2.—ORGANS OF CIRCULATION	...	...	...	11	13	16	...	28	12	40
Pericarditis ... ..	...	...	...	...	1	...	...	...	1	1
Aneurism ... ..	...	...	...	1	...	1	...	2	...	2
Heart Disease... ..	...	...	...	9	12	15	...	25	11	36
Angina Pectoris ... ..	...	...	...	1	...	...	...	1	...	1
Order 3.—RESPIRATORY ORGANS	21	13	8	9	12	19	6	61	32	93
Laryngitis ... ..	...	...	...	...	1	...	...	1	...	1
Bronchitis	10	4	2	1	3	13	4	24	13	37
Pleurisy... ..	...	1	...	1	1	...	...	2	1	3
Pneumonia	9	9	6	3	3	3	1	20	14	34
Asthma ... ..	...	...	...	2	3	2	1	6	2	8
Lung Disease (other forms)	2	4	...	2	1	1	...	8	2	10
Order 4.—DIGESTIVE ORGANS	2	2	3	10	21	15	...	28	25	53
Gastritis ... ..	...	...	1	...	...	1	...	1	1	2
Peritonitis	2	1	...	3	2	...	...	...	8	8
Ascites ... ..	...	1	2	1	1	1	...	3	3	6
Hernia ... ..	...	...	...	...	2	1	...	1	2	3
Ileus and Intussusception ... ..	...	...	...	...	1	...	...	1	...	1
Stomach Disease ... ..	...	...	...	...	2	2	...	2	2	4
Liver Disease... ..	...	...	...	5	12	9	...	17	9	26
Spleen Disease ... ..	...	...	...	1	...	...	...	2	...	1
Abdominal Tumours ... ..	...	...	...	...	1	1	...	1	...	2
Order 5.—URINARY ORGANS	...	5	...	2	3	5	2	10	7	17
Kidney Disease ... ..	...	5	...	2	2	3	1	6	7	13
Disease of Bladder ... ..	...	...	...	...	1	1	1	3	...	1
Stricture of Urethra ... ..	...	...	...	...	...	1	...	1	...	
	100	142	75	87	103	89	15	341	270	611

TABLE OF DEATHS

WITHIN THE URBAN SANITARY DISTRICT OF GLOUCESTER IN 1876,

CONTINUED.

CAUSES OF DEATH	AGES AT DEATH.							SEXES.		
	Under 1	1 and under 5	5 and under 20	20 and under 40	40 and under 60	60 and under 80	80 and above	Males.	Femls.	Total.
Class 3.—Local Diseases (<i>Cont.</i>)	100	142	75	87	103	89	15	341	270	611
Order 6.—GENERATIVE ORGANS	...	...	...	2	1	...	...	...	3	3
Ovarian Disease ... ..	...	...	...	1	1	...	...	...	2	2
Order 7.—CONNECTED WITH PARTURITION }	...	...	...	1	...	...	...	...	1	1
Puerperal Mania ... ..	...	...	...	1	...	...	...	...	1	1
Order 8.—ORGANS OF LOCOMOTION	2	1	1	...	...	1	...	3	2	5
Abscess	2	...	...	...	...	...	...	1	1	2
Disease of Femur... ..	...	...	...	...	...	1	...	...	1	1
Caries of Spine ... ..	...	1	1	...	...	...	...	2	...	2
Class IV.—Developmental Disease										
Order 1.—DISEASES OF CHILDREN	35	7	...	...	...	...	...	24	18	42
Premature Birth	33	...	...	...	...	...	...	19	14	33
Teething	2	7	...	...	...	...	...	5	4	9
Order 2.—DISEASES OF AGED	...	...	...	...	...	10	16	13	13	26
Old Age ... ..	...	...	...	...	...	10	16	13	13	26
Order 3.—DISEASES OF NUTRITION	6	...	...	...	...	...	...	4	2	6
Atrophy	6	...	...	...	...	...	...	4	2	6
Class V.—Violent Deaths, &c.										
Order 1.—ACCIDENT OR NEGLIGENCE	...	2	4	9	4	2	4	21	4	25
Fractures or Contusions ... ..	...	...	...	...	...	...	1	1	...	1
Gunshot Wounds ... ..	...	1	...	...	...	...	...	1	...	1
Burns ... ..	...	...	...	1	...	...	1	...	2	2
Drinking Boiling Water ... ..	...	1	...	...	...	...	...	...	1	1
Struck by a Locomotive Engine ... ..	...	...	1	...	...	...	...	1	...	1
Falling from Ladder ... ..	...	...	...	...	1	...	...	1	...	1
" down stairs ... ..	...	...	...	...	...	...	1	...	1	1
Drowning ... ..	...	...	1	6	...	...	...	7	...	7
Other injuries ... ..	...	...	2	2	3	2	1	10	...	10
Order 2.—SUICIDE	...	...	1	...	1	...	...	2	...	2
Hanging ... ..	...	...	1	...	...	...	...	1	...	1
Poison ... ..	...	...	...	...	1	...	...	1	...	1
Sudden Death, cause not ascertained }	3	...	1	1	1	1	...	4	3	7
Causes not specified, or ill defined }	2	1	...	1	1	1	...	3	3	6
	148	153	82	101	111	104	35	415	319	734

TABLE OF INQUESTS

HELD IN THE URBAN DISTRICT DURING THE YEAR 1876.

DATE	NAME OF DECEASED	AGE	VERDICT
1876.			
Jan'y. 4	Benjamin Patrick ...	40 years	Accidental Death
" 22	Emma Ashmead ...	15 "	{ Strangulation— Temporary In- sanity
" 26	George Cox ...	14 "	Accidental Death
" 31	Joseph Duberley ...	61 "	Ditto ditto
Feby. 2	Joseph Folley ...	58 "	{ Killed himself— Temporary In- sanity
" 5	Mark Kinch ...	19 "	Accidental death
" 15	Charles Besley ...	18 "	Natural causes
March 8	Thomas Beard ...	40 "	Ditto ditto
" 22	A female child dau. of Jas. Griffiths }	13 days	Ditto ditto
" 25	A male person un- known ... }	[about 30 years,	Found drowned
April 3	Elizabeth Lester ...	22 "	Accidentally burnt
" 10	John Davis ...	52 "	Accidental death
" 21	Albert Wm. Allen ...	3 "	Ditto ditto
May 15	John Robinson ...	30 "	Natural causes
" 23	John Price ...	71 "	Accidental death
June 2	James Jones ...	27 "	Ditto ditto
July 14	James Albert Lloyd	7 "	Found drowned
" 22	Neil McLean ...	22 "	Accident. drowned
" 31 }	William Sisum ...	38 "	Found drowned
& Aug. 8 }	John Browning ...	53 "	Accidental death
" 11	Jane Morton Beard	29 "	Disease of the heart
" 21	William Price ...	48 "	Accidental death
Sept. 7	Sydney John Dainton	11 "	Ditto ditto
" 9	Albert Fowles ...	21 "	Ditto ditto
" 9	Eliza Eaton ...	52 "	Disease of the heart
" 14	Thomas Wilson ...	21 "	Accident. drowned
" 20	George Bowers ...	73 "	Natural causes
" 23	John Lamb ...	40 "	Accidental death
Octr. 3	Frederick Talbot ...	23 "	Ditto ditto
" 26 }	Henry Hall ...	50 " about	Ditto ditto
& Nov. 10 }	Ann Kent ...	82 "	Accidentally burnt
" 18			

The population of the District according to the census of 1871 was 31,601. Since that time up to the end of last year there have been erected in the City 209 houses in each of which 5 may be taken as the average number of inhabitants. The present population is therefore about 32,646, which, as the number of deaths registered in the District has been 734 during the past year, gives a death rate of rather more than 22 per thousand.

JOHN P. WILTON,

*Medical Officer of Health to the
Gloucester Urban Sanitary Authority.*

PORT SANITARY AUTHORITY.

During the past year my duties were very light, as Capt. Calway, the Inspector at Sharpness, had to summon me only twice to visit any suspected cases, and on both occasions I found no necessity for interference. He reported to me the arrival of another cargo of fish manure, but as it was contained in sacks the nuisance arising from the smell was not so great as when it was loose in the hold of the vessel and I received no complaints about it. I had also a report of a supposed case of infectious disease on board a vessel in the canal, lying near to the Oil Mills, at High Orchard, but found on visiting the sick sailor that his illness was not of a nature which necessitated my interference.

I have also visited other vessels to which my attention was called, both on account of sickness amongst the crew, and from the cargoes having been reported as offensive, but I have not considered that in any of these cases any action on my part was called for.

JOHN P. WILTON,

*Medical Officer of Health to the
Gloucester Port Sanitary Authority.*

